



Department of Homeland Security Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection Daily Open Source Infrastructure Report for 05 February 2004

Current Nationwide
Threat Level is



[For info click here](#)

www.whitehouse.gov/homeland

Daily Overview

- The Washington Post reports the Washington, DC, Water and Sewer Authority last year fired a high-ranking manager who had repeatedly warned top agency officials and federal authorities of lead contamination in the city's tap water. (See item [18](#))
- ZDNet reports users say the results from Microsoft's latest security patch for its Internet Explorer browser are inconsistent, since it doesn't always work. (See item [24](#))
- The Washington Post reports the discovery of ricin in a Senate office building has prompted federal investigators to consider whether the case could be connected to the unsolved anthrax attacks of late 2001, which killed five people and sickened 17 others. (See item [27](#))
- Internet Security Systems has elevated its Internet threat level to AlertCon 2: Increased Vigilance — citing the need for increased vigilance from possible threats to computer networks. (See Internet Alert Dashboard).

DHS/IAIP Update *Fast Jump*

Production Industries: [Energy](#); [Chemical](#); [Defense Industrial Base](#)

Service Industries: [Banking and Finance](#); [Transportation](#); [Postal and Shipping](#)

Sustenance and Health: [Agriculture](#); [Food](#); [Water](#); [Public Health](#)

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Energy Sector

Current Electricity Sector Threat Alert Levels: Physical: Elevated, Cyber: Elevated

Scale: LOW, GUARDED, ELEVATED, HIGH, SEVERE [Source: ISAC for the Electricity Sector (ES-ISAC) – <http://esisac.com>]

1. *February 04, Associated Press* — **Nuclear reactor vessel will not be shipped.** A California utility has abandoned a plan to send a 600-ton decommissioned reactor vessel on what would

have been the longest voyage ever for a piece of nuclear waste in U.S. history. Southern California Edison on Tuesday blamed delays that came as it finalized plans to send the vessel on a 15,500-mile trip around the icy tip of South America to a nuclear graveyard in Barnwell, SC, spokesperson Ray Golden said. **The vessel will remain safely in place, wrapped in tons of steel and concrete, at the San Onofre Nuclear Generating Station next to the ocean between Los Angeles and San Diego, CA. Edison will explore other options to get the vessel to the East Coast, including a domestic route.**

Source: http://www.mercurynews.com/mld/mercurynews/news/local/787117_5.htm

2. *February 04, Reuters* — **Trinidad aims to increase LNG output. Trinidad and Tobago plans to double its production of liquefied natural gas (LNG) in the next two years, with an eye toward expanding exports to top buyers in the United States. The Atlantic LNG project in Trinidad, which supplied 77 percent of total U.S. LNG imports in 2003, is building a fourth export plant to liquefy natural gas before it is shipped.** This plant, called a "train" in industry parlance, will have capacity of 5.2 million tons per year. Coupled with a streamlining program at its terminals, Atlantic LNG aims to raise its export capacity by another 20 percent as the fourth train is completed. The growth would come as companies in the United States, the world's biggest energy market, start tapping the export market more and more to fill an anticipated demand surge as some power plants switch to natural gas from coal. At the same time, natural gas production has been declining in the U.S. and Canada. "Demand growth appears to be robust and LNG infrastructure in the U.S., in the form of receiving terminals and the shipping fleet, is expanding," Atlantic LNG President Rick Cape said.

Source: http://hsweb01.screamingmedia.com/PMA/pma_newsarticle1_reuters.htm?SMDOCID=reuters_pma_2004_02_04_eng-reuters_pma_TRINIDAD-AD-AIMS-TO-DOUBLE-LNG-OUTPUT-IN-YEARS-EYES-US&SMContentSet=0

3. *February 04, Department of Energy* — **Power outage task force posts public recommendations. As it prepares to issue its final report, the U.S.–Canadian Power Systems Outage Task Force has announced that a summary of the comments received on the Interim Report: Causes of the August 14th Blackout in the United States and Canada is posted on the Department of Energy's Website.** "We are happy to provide the citizens of the U.S. and Canada another opportunity to review the recommendations submitted to the Power System Outage Task Force, and encourage them to participate," Jimmy Glotfelty, co-chair of the task force and director of DOE's Office of Electric Transmission and Distribution said. **The summary incorporates comments and recommendations received thus far from industry officials as well as the general public during the open comment period.** This new comment period focuses on evaluating the abovementioned recommendations and comments. This review period will close on February 11, 2004. Report:

<http://electricity.doe.gov>.

Source: http://www.energy.gov/engine/content.do?PUBLIC_ID=14867&BT_CODE=PR_PRESSRELEASES&TT_CODE=PRESSRELEASE

4. *February 03, Las Vegas Review-Journal* — **DOE request would boost Yucca Mountain budget. President Bush on Monday proposed to spend \$880 million next year on the Yucca Mountain Project in Nevada, the government's chosen site for a nuclear waste repository.** Officials said it was the first of what could be a half-dozen years or more of dramatic budget requests to license and build waste-handling facilities and underground

storage tunnels at Yucca Mountain, construct a railroad to the site, and assemble a national network to transport spent nuclear fuel to Nevada. The Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management got the biggest percentage increase among Department of Energy (DOE) programs in the new budget. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham said Yucca Mountain represented "one of the most significant and long-standing commitments" in the DOE's \$23.5 billion overall request. **Abraham said new funding would allow DOE to remain on schedule to begin repository operations in 2010, including finalizing a license application by the end of this year.**

Source: http://www.reviewjournal.com/lvrj_home/2004/Feb-03-Tue-2004/news/23136041.html

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Chemical Sector

5. *February 04, TheStar.com (Toronto, Canada)* — **Ontario sends in chemical SWAT team.** Environment Minister Leona Dombrowsky is sending her SWAT team to Chemical Valley. In the wake of a spill from an Imperial Oil plant in Sarnia on Sunday, February 1, Dombrowsky has asked for a thorough investigation by a 30-member team into whether provincial rules are being met in the massive grouping of petrochemical plants. Dombrowsky said in a phone interview she's told staff: "I want them to be much more aggressive on the pro-active side." The spill was believed to have occurred between 3 a.m. and 4:30 a.m. Sunday, when a heat exchanger leaked 150,000 litres of solvents into the cooling water, which flowed into the river. **The plume of chemicals was not expected to present a health or environmental threat, environment ministry spokesperson John Steele said. But Robert Bailey, director of environmental research at the University of Western Ontario, said it's too early to say there's been no environmental impact.** Locals weren't mollified by the discharge's low toxicity, saying the accident is evidence of inadequate safeguards that could lead to other emergencies.

Source: http://www.thestar.com/NASApp/cs/ContentServer?pagename=thestar/Layout/Article_Type1&c=Article&cid=1075849811709&call_pageid=968256289824&col=968342212737

6. *February 04, SouthBendTribune.com (South Bend, IN)* — **Crews cleaning up acid spill.** Crews were busy Tuesday cleaning up a spill of a potentially deadly chemical at Howmet Corp. in downtown LaPorte, IN. **About 10 p.m. Monday, February 2, a large chunk of ice fell from the roof at the rear of the building and landed on a plastic pipe attached to a 600-gallon outdoor tank containing hydrochloric acid, said Roger Wolff, LaPorte County Hazardous Materials Response Team director.** The pipe ruptured, allowing the entire contents of the half-empty tank to flow into the parking lot and run onto the soil, Wolff said. **Wolff said a vapor cloud formed on the property, which required members of the Hazmat squad and Howmet chemical safety experts to wear breathing apparatus and special suits along with rubber boots and gloves to prevent exposure while containing the chemicals.** The building's ventilation system was restricted to prevent the vapors from possibly drifting inside and threatening the health of about 120 workers near the end of the second shift, Wolff said. Hydrochloric acid is used to clean the metal before it's used in making the product, Howell said. Source: <http://www.southbendtribune.com/stories/2004/02/04/local.200>

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Defense Industrial Base Sector

7. *February 04, Government Computer News* — **Air Force tests C2 battle-planning system.**

The Air Force has a new command and control tool to test for regular use as part of its arsenal for planning air battles. A defense contractor last week delivered to the Air Force and the Strategic Command the prototype C2 system that integrates Global Positioning System (GPS) navigation and satellite information into the battle-planning process. Under a \$2.8 million task order **the C2 system lets commanders plan precision strikes using highly accurate GPS data, Air Force officials said. The system also gives battle planners access to fly-over data so they can determine when enemy satellites can view battlefield conditions.**

Source: http://www.gcn.com/vol1_no1/daily-updates/24818-1.html

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Banking and Finance Sector

8. *February 04, Federal Computer Week* — **FinCEN name used in scam.** In recent weeks, electronic con artists representing themselves as federal officials have used public concern about terrorism to mislead naive e-mail users into divulging personal banking information online, according to Department of Treasury officials. **The department issued an alert Tuesday to warn that a spam scheme now making the rounds uses the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network (FinCEN), a Treasury bureau, to intimidate and deceive the public. According to Treasury officials, citizens are receiving fraudulent electronic documents labeled "anti-terrorist stop order."** They include a warning that recipients must pay a \$25,000 fee for an anti-terrorist certificate before they can conduct further banking transactions. The alert notes that some people unwittingly have fallen for such schemes and let themselves be redirected to fraudulent Websites. Once there, they are asked to update personal information, including their names, bank account numbers, dates of birth and Social Security numbers.

Source: <http://www.fcw.com/fcw/articles/2004/0202/web-phish-02-04-04.asp>

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Transportation Sector

9. *February 04, Department of Transportation* — **DOT receives third consecutive "Clean" audit of annual financial statements.** U.S. Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta has announced that the Department of Transportation (DOT) received its third consecutive unqualified, or "clean," audit opinion on its consolidated financial statements. The audit opinion is from the DOT Inspector General on the fiscal year 2003 statements. Consolidated financial statements show how the department is accountable for its total budgetary resources of \$128 billion provided by American taxpayers for federal transportation activities. **"We have an**

absolute obligation to be good stewards of the taxpayers, money,” Secretary Mineta said. “When it comes to the Department of Transportation, taxpayers are getting their money’s worth.” DOT Inspector General Kenneth M. Mead said “Given the fact that DOT’s financial operations — including assets, liabilities, and program costs — are comparable in size to a Fortune 100 company, ensuring the Department’s financial statements are in order is particularly important.”

Source: <http://www.dot.gov/affairs/dot904.htm>

10. *February 04, Associated Press* — **Two trains collide in Chicago, 45 injured.** Two commuter trains collided on elevated tracks during the evening rush hour February 2 in Chicago, causing minor injuries to 45 people. Many of the injured complained of neck and back pain, and they were transported in fair and good condition, said fire department spokesperson Kevin MacGregor. **The trains were headed north in the city's downtown when one ran into the back of the other. The impact shattered windows on the train cars and threw passengers to the floor.** Chicago Transit Authority spokesperson Sheila Gregory said because the trains were traveling along a curve at the time they likely were not traveling very fast. The two six-car trains can carry 600 passengers each. **It took rescue workers nearly three hours to evacuate all the passengers from the dimly lit, unheated train cars.** The transit authority will interview the trains' operators and test them for drugs and alcohol as part of its probe, Gregory said.

Source: <http://cms.firehouse.com/content/article/article.jsp?id=sectionId=46&id=25651>

11. *February 03, Transportation Security Administration* — **TSA expands Federal Flight Deck Officer program to include cargo pilots.** The Transportation Security Administration (TSA) announced on February 3 that it is opening to cargo pilots its Federal Flight Deck Officer (FFDO) program that trains and arms volunteer aviators to protect the aircraft cockpit. Applications are being accepted on a secure web site that is available to pilots and other stakeholder groups. **With the enactment of the Vision 100 Century of Aviation Reauthorization Act (Public Law 108–176), the FFDO program was expanded beyond commercial and charter passenger pilots. Now, cargo pilots and other flight crew members — specifically flight engineers and navigators on both passenger and cargo planes — are also eligible for the program.** "Expanding the FFDO program adds yet another layer of security on passenger and cargo aircraft to protect against those who would do us harm," said Acting TSA Administrator David M. Stone. "We welcome this important opportunity to expand a very successful program." The FFDO program was created as part of the Homeland Security Act to select, train, equip, and supervise volunteer pilots to defend flight decks of passenger aircraft against acts of criminal violence and air piracy.

Source: http://www.tsa.gov/public/display?theme=44&content=090005198_00832b8

12. *February 03, Reuters* — **Vietnam air safety under scrutiny. The United States wants a review of Vietnam's airport safety standards before it implements a landmark bilateral trade pact that would start direct flights between the two former foes, a U.S. aviation official said.** Several U.S. carriers had said in October they thought the first direct flights from America might start in March. But with the safety review far from complete, that timetable appeared unlikely. **"The Civil Aviation Administration of Vietnam (CAAV) will have to demonstrate its compliance with the international standards,"** Federal Aviation Administration Deputy Administrator Robert Sturgell told a news briefing on Monday.

He said the rules to ensure the safety of global travel are set by the International Civil Aviation Organization based in Montreal, of which America and Vietnam are members. Asked if Vietnam had lapses in any of the rules, Sturgell said he was "not aware" of any particular deficiencies. The start of direct flights for the first time since the war ended in 1975 would tap a boom in tourism and trade. A U.S. review team is expected to visit Vietnam in the next few months to look at its airports, said Sturgell, who was in the country to discuss the aviation agreement.

Source: <http://www.cnn.com/2004/TRAVEL/02/03/biz.trav.vietnam.air.re.ut/index.html>

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Postal and Shipping Sector

13. *February 04, Associated Press* — Ricin probe continues. Investigators intensified efforts Wednesday to identify the letter or parcel that brought ricin to a Senate mailroom.

Hazardous materials teams from the FBI and U.S. Capitol Police were conducting a methodical search after a preliminary search Tuesday turned up no specific letter or parcel that could be connected to the ricin in Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's office, FBI spokesperson Debra Weierman said. The powdery white substance was found on a machine that opens mail in Frist's office, authorities said. The area was quarantined and stacks of mail were being checked. "We have an open mind about the source of this," said Terrance Gainer, chief of the Capitol Police, which is conducting the probe along with the FBI and the multi-agency joint terrorism task force based at the FBI's Washington field office. Gainer said authorities were interviewing members of Frist's staff and others who had access to the mailroom. **Although it was considered remotely possible that the ricin was physically planted in Frist's office, investigators were concentrating on mail as the likely source.**

Source: http://story.news.yahoo.com/news?tmpl=story&cid=519&ncid=718&e=4&u=/ap/20040204/ap_on_re_us/ricin_investigation

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Agriculture Sector

14. *February 04, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — New BSE rules may cost millions. New U.S. regulations designed to prevent the spread of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) will cost U.S. producers between \$183 million and \$255 million a year, mostly due to lost revenue and testing costs, according to Gregg Doud, the chief economist for the National Cattlemen's Beef Association. Doud stressed the forecast is "preliminary" and may change. U.S. Department of Agriculture Secretary Ann Veneman announced on December 30 the new regulations that ban meat from non-ambulatory, or "downer" animals, from the human food supply, expand the types of bovine tissue considered to be a BSE risk in cattle over the age of 30 months, and further restrict advanced meat recovery technology to scrape meat from bone. The new prohibition on downer cattle alone will cost ranchers \$50 million in losses annually, Doud said. Now that downer cattle, either too sick or injured to walk, are not allowed to be processed into human food, producers are forced to send them to renderers which pay far less money for the animals to make products such as pet food.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=23421

15. *February 04, Oster Dow Jones Commodity News* — **OIE proposes revamp to country BSE status categories.** The World Organization for Animal Health, known by the acronym OIE, is proposing to "simplify" the categories in which countries are placed in relationship to their bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE) status. **The current five categories, ranging from BSE-free to a high-risk status, would be replaced with just three, BSE negligible risk, BSE controlled risk, BSE unknown risk.** Alex Thiermann, a U.S. Department of Agriculture animal-disease expert on loan to OIE, said the new classification system would shift emphasis from whether a country has reported cases of BSE to what countries do to control and prevent the cattle disease. Thiermann said there is strong opposition to the proposal within the 166-member organization. **The opposition to the change, he said, stems from the fact that many countries would be shifted from a "provisionally free" status to "unknown risk."** **Even if a country has never reported a case of BSE, it would still fall into the "unknown" category if it cannot show that it has substantial surveillance and safeguard systems,** Thiermann said. If the proposed change to the classification system were adopted, the U.S. would fall under the "BSE controlled risk" category, he said, because it has put measures in place to safeguard against the spread of BSE.

Source: http://www.agprofessional.com/show_story.php?id=23422

16. *February 03, Associated Press* — **President Bush orders new food-protection measures.** An executive order released Tuesday involved the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA), the Department of Health and Human Services, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Environmental Protection Agency, in the response to potentially calamitous agricultural terrorism. **The directive calls for creation of systems to contain any outbreaks of plant or animal disease that result from terror attack, and to prevent or cure the diseases themselves.** The president ordered the agencies to plan ways to stabilize the food supply and the economy after an attack. **The plan calls on the USDA to develop a National Veterinary Stockpile that would hold enough animal pharmaceuticals "to appropriately respond to the most damaging animal diseases" within 24 hours of an outbreak.** The executive order says USDA also must create a National Plant Disease Recovery System that could respond within a single growing season to "a high-consequence plant disease" with pest control measures or disease-resistant seed. Under the new plan, the three departments and EPA, working with the CIA and other government organizations, would look for weak spots in the agriculture and food sectors and develop ways to repair them.

Source: http://seattlepi.nwsource.com/national/apwashington_story.asp?category=1151&slug=Bush%20Food%20Terrorism

17. *February 02, Western Producer (Canada)* — **Ruminant feed ban doing its job: CFIA.** The Canadian Food Inspection Agency (CFIA) is confident the ban on feeding ruminant protein to ruminants works following investigations of mills possibly associated with two cases of bovine spongiform encephalopathy (BSE). **Lead CFIA feed investigator Tom Spiller said in two separate audits, all mills were in compliance with feed production and distribution regulations implemented in 1997.** Since a ban on feeding ruminant protein to ruminants became law in August 1997, all 450 Canadian feed mills are subjected to CFIA audits. The CFIA checks all procedures and records. If there is a violation, a 30-day followup ensures the feed mill has corrected the problem. **Starting this year, the CFIA demands a laboratory**

validation test of clean-out procedures to guard against cross-contamination in mills' flushing systems. Increased attention has been directed at rendered meat and bone meal. Now, renderers must separate material from different species. If they do not, the meal must carry a label with a warning that it cannot be fed to ruminants.

Source: <http://www.producer.com/articles/20040129/livestock/20040129 ls03.html>

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Food Sector

Nothing to report.

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Water Sector

18. *February 04, Washington Post* — **Water agency fired manager who warned about lead. The Washington, DC, Water and Sewer Authority (WASA) fired a high-ranking manager last year who had repeatedly warned top agency officials and federal authorities of lead contamination in the city's tap water before tests last summer revealed that the lead exceeded federal limits in thousands of homes.** Seema S. Bhat was WASA's water quality manager from 1999 until she was fired in March after her bosses decided that she had too often reported lead problems directly to the Environmental Protection Agency. A federal investigator who reviewed the matter last summer ruled that Bhat was improperly terminated and ordered WASA to rehire her and pay her damages. **WASA officials acknowledged at a news conference Tuesday that they had not done enough to keep the public informed about widespread lead contamination in the tap water.** Tests of water in 6,118 homes last summer found that 4,075 had lead levels that exceeded the EPA's limit of 15 parts per billion. Test results were not mailed to residents until November.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A10565-2004Feb 3.html>

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Public Health Sector

19. *February 04, Australian Associated Press* — **WHO increases bird flu warning. Two more fatalities in Vietnam lifted the death toll from the bird flu outbreak to 15 as the World Health Organization (WHO) said the disease was spreading so quickly that no part of Asia was safe.** The warning came as a leading U.S. medical expert said China probably already has human cases of bird flu, and that precious time needed to prevent disaster was being lost because of a failure to acknowledge the extent of the epidemic. Henry Niman, a bioengineer at Harvard Medical School, made the remarks amid renewed allegations that the spread of bird flu has been much wider than previously thought, and that China has been covering it up. "I'd be very surprised if there are no human cases in China at this time," Niman said. "It's unlikely that you have that many people, that many chickens, and that many outbreaks, and have no one come down with it," he said. The WHO warned that no part of Asia should consider itself safe from bird flu, which it said appears to be older and more established than initially thought.

Source: <http://www.theage.com.au/articles/2004/02/04/1075853940726.html>

20. *February 04, Purdue University* — **Purdue researchers create device that detects mass of a single virus particle.** Researchers at Purdue University have developed a miniature device sensitive enough to detect a single virus particle, an advancement that could have many applications, including environmental–health monitoring and homeland security. The device is a tiny "cantilever," a diving board–like beam of silicon that naturally vibrates at a specific frequency. When a virus particle weighing about one–trillionth as much as a grain of rice lands on the cantilever, it vibrates at a different frequency, which was measured by the Purdue researchers. **The work, funded by the National Institutes of Health, is aimed at developing advanced sensors capable of detecting airborne viruses, bacteria, and other contaminants.** The next step will be to coat a cantilever with the antibodies for a specific virus, meaning only those virus particles would stick to the device. Coating the cantilevers with antibodies that attract certain viruses could make it possible to create detectors sensitive to specific pathogens.

Source: http://www.eurekalert.org/pub_releases/2004-02/pu-prc020404.php

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Government Sector

21. *February 03, Government Executive Magazine* — **Federal budget adds hundreds of immigration enforcement jobs.** Hundreds of new immigration enforcement jobs, including 236 personnel to find aliens that have defied final deportation orders, would be created under President Bush's fiscal 2005 budget proposal. **The budget would add staff to the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement's (ICE) detention and removals branch, which expels illegal aliens from the United States. The unit extradited 142,008 aliens in fiscal 2003, but faces a daunting backlog of immigration cases.** Roughly 400,000 aliens have fled after receiving a final order of deportation from an immigration judge. The budget also provides \$78 million in new funds for ICE's investigations branch, providing more staff for the compliance enforcement unit, a headquarters office that analyzes data from the Student and Exchange Visitor Information System and the National Security Entry–Exit Registration System. **The budget also funds construction at 12 Border Patrol stations, many of which are located along the U.S. Canada border. The Border Patrol is part of the Bureau of Customs and Border Protection, another Homeland Security Department agency.**

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0204/020304p1.htm>

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Emergency Services Sector

22. *February 04, Government Technology* — **Department of Homeland Security's 2005 budget provides \$3.6 billion for first responders.** One key theme of the new Department of Homeland Security (DHS) budget was providing support for state and local first responders. The budget includes a total of \$3.6 billion to support first–responder grants. Since March 1, 2003, DHS allotted more than \$8 billion to support state and local preparedness. Between FY

2001 and the FY 2005 budget request, over \$14.5 billion in assistance will be made available for state and local programs now under DHS. The 2005 budget request will provide the Office for Domestic Preparedness (ODP) with the \$3.6 billion to continue these enhancements and achieve national preparedness goals — including doubling the Urban Area Security Initiative (UASI). **ODP will also continue grants for law enforcement terrorism prevention, and direct grants to improve fire departments' response to terrorism and other major incidents.**

Source: <http://www.govtech.net/news/news.php?id=87303>

23. *February 04, Associated Press* — **Anthrax prepared Senate for ricin scare.** No one has died from poisonous ricin found this week because the Capitol prepared for possible chemical and biological attacks after the 2001 anthrax scare, government officials said. Since October 2001, when two anthrax-laced letters were sent to Democratic Sens. Tom Daschle and Patrick Leahy, **the federal government has instituted biohazard protocols for the entire Capitol complex, made escape hoods available to almost all Capitol Hill employees, installed biohazard-blocking filters into air conditioning ducts and instituted mail screening and irradiation for all incoming mail.** While the safety protocols didn't stop the ricin from reaching Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist's offices Monday afternoon, security officials were quickly able to determine that it hadn't become airborne. The Senate workers who had come in contact with the ricin were sent home later that night after being decontaminated.

Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/nation/7873369.htm>

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Information and Telecommunications Sector

24. *February 04, ZDNet* — **Users report inconsistent results from latest IE patch.** Microsoft's latest security patch for its Internet Explorer (IE) browser doesn't always work, users report. The fix was supposed to disable a commonly used feature that allows usernames and passwords to be transferred within a URL. However, some users have found that **even after the patch is deployed, the "feature" is still active.** Microsoft said it has not as yet received any complaints from users experiencing the problems, but tests by ZDNet UK confirm that even after the latest patch is applied, IE still allows URLs containing password and user information to access Internet resources. However, at this stage it is still unclear why some users find the patch works, while others are still left vulnerable.

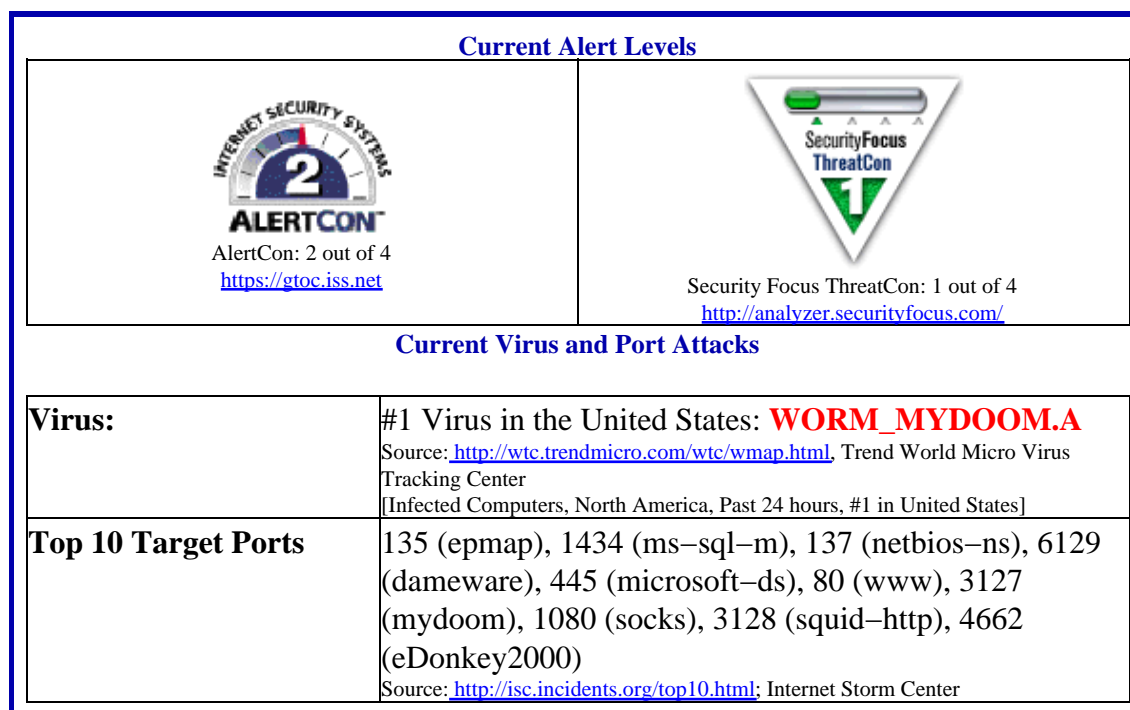
Source: <http://news.zdnet.co.uk/internet/security/0.39020375.3914548.7.00.htm>

25. *February 03, Government Executive Magazine* — **Administration seeks to use surplus GSA funds for e-gov initiatives.** The White House has asked lawmakers to allow the General Services Administration (GSA) to use some of its surplus funds for e-government initiatives, agency officials announced Tuesday. Bush administration officials sought more than \$40 million last year for the Electronic Government Fund, but lawmakers appropriated only about \$3 million for the fund. **After consulting with the Office of Management and Budget, GSA officials decided to seek surplus money from the General Supply Fund, which would be used to fund "government wide e-gov projects,"** according to GSA budget documents. GSA can now use surplus funding for e-government projects that are related to the General Supply Fund. Under the new initiative, officials would be able to apply the funding to

any federal e-government project. During a briefing Tuesday, GSA officials also said that more government agencies than expected are adopting the FirstGov.gov search engine. In fiscal 2003, 586 government agency Web sites used the search engine.

Source: <http://www.govexec.com/dailyfed/0204/020304d1.htm>

Internet Alert Dashboard



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General Sector

26. February 04, Associated Press — Ashcroft urges Asia help in terror fight. U.S. Attorney General John Ashcroft urged senior Asia Pacific officials on Wednesday to bolster cooperation to fight terrorism. Ministers and other officials from 33 countries gathered on Bali sought ways to pool their resources to battle Jemaah Islamiyah, a Southeast Asian terror group linked to al Qaeda. **Indonesia and Australia on Wednesday announced creation of two anti-terror centers in Indonesia jointly run by the two governments. They also signed an accord on the exchange of financial intelligence to fight money laundering.** Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri said it "has now become our common duty" to expand "the current joint endeavors to encompass a wider and more effective cooperation." That sentiment was echoed by Ashcroft, who said: "The fight against terrorism is not something undertaken by any one country, any one group." Indonesia has spawned more terrorists than any other Asian country, and has been the target of some of their worst attacks.
Source: <http://www.miami.com/mld/miamiherald/news/politics/7873248.htm>

27. February 04, Washington Post — Investigators seek ties in anthrax, ricin cases. The discovery of ricin in a Senate office building has prompted the FBI and other federal

investigators to consider whether the case could be connected to the unsolved anthrax attacks of late 2001, which killed five people and sickened 17 others. **Though too soon to determine whether there is any link between the cases, FBI and postal officials have noted a number of superficial similarities.** In Monday's incident, a pile of powder was found in the office of Senate Majority Leader Bill Frist (R-TN) and may have come from one of several dozen envelopes that had passed through a mail-opening machine, Frist and other officials said. In the anthrax attacks, letters containing the deadly spores were mailed to, among others, Sens. Thomas A. Daschle (D-SD) — who was Senate majority leader at the time — and Patrick J. Leahy (D-VT). On the other hand, as of late yesterday, officials had not mentioned finding the envelope that may have carried the powder or a threatening note similar to the ones that accompanied the anthrax mailings. Frist and other officials said the search for such clues was continuing.

Source: <http://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-dyn/articles/A10286-2004Feb 3.html>

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DHS/IAIP Products & Contact Information

The Department of Homeland Security's Information Analysis and Infrastructure Protection (IAIP) serves as a national critical infrastructure threat assessment, warning, vulnerability entity. The IAIP provides a range of bulletins and advisories of interest to information system security and professionals and those involved in protecting public and private infrastructures. By visiting the IAIP web-site (<http://www.nipc.gov>), one can quickly access any of the following DHS/IAIP products:

[DHS/IAIP Warnings](#) – DHS/IAIP Assessments, Advisories, and Alerts: DHS/IAIP produces three levels of infrastructure warnings. Collectively, these threat warning products will be based on material that is significant, credible, timely, and that address cyber and/or infrastructure dimensions with possibly significant impact.

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